

National Life Membership – Citation

Chris Wyatt – NSW

Chris became a member of IPSHA in 2012 when he was appointed Head of Newington College, Lindfield Campus. His commitment to service and his deep and enduring interest in education, led Chris to join the State Office Bearer committee soon after his appointment, taking on the role of Professional Development Chair in 2012. During his tenure in this role, Chris lifted the standard of professional learning for IPSHA members considerably, which in turn made attendance at termly meetings ever more compelling. Chris was awarded the PAI John Laing Professional Development Award in 2018 in recognition of his efforts in this field. He was instrumental in the planning and execution of the 2014 IPSHA Biennial Conference, ensuring that the speakers engaged were not only highly regarded but had the potential to be impactful for the broad IPSHA membership nationally.

Chris served on the National Board in his capacity as NSW State President from 2022 – 2024, and then as National Treasurer from 2024 - 2025. His contribution to National Board meetings is always thoughtful, well considered and with the best interests of IPSHA members, and the association more broadly, at the forefront of his thinking. Chris has volunteered countless hours of his time, serving on the Finance Risk and Audit Committee and preparing annual budgets with State Treasurers around Australia. Chris' contribution at a National Board level has been both significant and impactful. He has concurrently served as the NSW IPSHA representative on the Australian Primary Principals Association National Advisory Council, providing strong advocacy at a national level.

In NSW, Chris has been a valuable contributing member of the NSW State Office Bearers Committee since 2012. Importantly, he served as President Elect and then President during the period where COVID changed everything we did and the ways in which we did it. Always a voice of reason, he compelled us to ensure that our thinking remained positive, our decisions member centric, and our actions of benefit to our members and the people they were caring for during such a challenging time.

Chris is a doer, an action man who gets things done! However, he is also deeply thoughtful and is able to synthesise multiple pieces of disparate information into clear and achievable steps that provide benefit to all involved.

Chris has an outstanding record of attendance at meetings, country weekends and conferences throughout the term of his membership. Whilst he is highly regarded for the work he has done on behalf of our great association, he will also be remembered for his encouragement for members to engage in social opportunities, understanding that this is where the close friendships and professional relationships are developed and strengthened. His knowledge of venues that may be appropriate for these social engagements is legendary, as is his ability to find a venue with live music, wherever we might be!

Chris' enduring support for IPSHA has strengthened our organisation, enriched our understanding of what it means to lead, and expanded our influence in the wider educational community. He leaves a legacy of dedicated service, commitment and collegiality.

In recognition of Chris' distinguished service to IPSHA, it is my great honour, on behalf of the NSW/ACT Branch, to nominate Chris Wyatt for Honorary National Life Membership of IPSHA.

Martin Lubrano
Head of Junior School, Barker College
IPSHA National President